

of Preventive Medicine. He is responsible for organizing the Department and carrying out its responsibilities and functions. The Department serves the State through the Baltimore City Health Department, and twenty-three county health departments, each of which is in the charge of a health officer who serves as the Deputy State Health Officer for his county.

By enacting Chapter 358, Acts of 1966, the General Assembly reorganized the State Department of Health into four major activity areas. Each of these areas is headed by an assistant commissioner, under whom the bureau directors and division chiefs operate (Code 1957, 1965 Repl. Vol., 1967 Supp., Art. 43).

Executive Office

Directly responsible to the Commissioner are the offices of the Deputy Commissioner for Programs (who also serves in the Commissioner's absence), Legal Counsel, the Director of Public Information, and the Director of Program Grants and Development.

Community Health Services

Local health departments are the backbone of public health in Maryland. These make services available to the residents of the State through their staffs of public health nurses, sanitarians, and other health workers. The State Health Department provides consultation and assistance in the development of programs to meet the needs of the population services.

Responsible to the Assistant Commissioner are the Divisions of Nursing, Accident Prevention, Social Work Services, and Health Education (which operates a reference and lending library and film loan services).

Medical Care Services

The office of Medical Care Services consists of three major bureaus. The first of these, the Bureau of Preventive Medical Services consists of seven divisions. The Division of Maternal and Child Health, is concerned with prenatal and postnatal care, preschool and school health programs, family planning and poison control. The Division of Crippled Children's Services provides diagnosis, consultation, and care programming for a variety of handicapping conditions. The Division of Mental Retardation includes a Statewide program of day care centers and PKU testing of infants. The Division of Communicable Disease Control receives weekly reports of communicable diseases and initiates measures to prevent or to control epidemics. The Division of Veterinary Medicine is concerned with the control of animal diseases transmissible to man. The Division of Dental Health promotes community dental health services, including the fluoridation of public water supplies. The Division of Nutrition promotes good dietary habits and advises on special food regimens.

The Assistant Commissioner is charged with a program for the continuing education of physicians (MEDIC) in collaboration with the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty and medical schools and hospitals. He is also charged with the responsibility for the operation of the regional medical programs of heart, cancer, and stroke. Directly responsible to the Assistant Commissioner are the Divisions of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Medical Care Studies. This last-named division analyzes health service and facility needs and recommends improvements in the provision and coordination of health services in both public and private sectors.

The second bureau is the Bureau of Chronic Diseases. This bureau includes five divisions. The Division of Cancer Control is concerned